

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on September 19, 2008.

Claims 1, 7, 12, 23, and 27 are amended, no claims are cancelled, and claims 33-35 are added; as a result, claims 1-35 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-23, 25-30 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolf et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0072611 A1) in view of Shibazaki et al. (U.S. Patent 4,459,673).

Claims 24 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolf et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0072611 A1) and Shibazaki et al. (U.S. Patent 4,459,673) as applied to claims 23 and 27 above, and further in view of Wesemann et al. (U.S. Patent 6,731,724 B2).

Wolf describes a gaming system having a dynamic menu system operable to perform various functions, including setup, configuration, and diagnostic functions as illustrated in Figures 22-26.

Shibazaki describes a photocopier which is operable to provide a voice indication of a malfunction to a user upon some action by the user, such as attempting to operate the copier. Shibazaki does not have different service or configuration modes that are distinct from a user mode or other mode of normal operation, but uses the voice prompts as a user-friendly method of enabling a relatively unsophisticated user resolve minor problems such as clearing a paper jam.

The pending claims as amended, in contrast, now more clearly recite a wagering game system having a normal user mode in which a user can play a wagering game, and a separate configuration or service mode accessible to a game administrator. The audio module is operable to report game technical information to a game administrator when the game administrator has brought the wagering game machine into the configuration or service mode, but does not report the game technical information to a user while in normal game mode.

Because Shibazaki does not teach a separate user mode and configuration or service mode, and because it does not teach an administrator placing the machine in a service or configuration mode to make the audio module operable to report technical information, the pending claims are patentably distinct from the prior art.

Reexamination and allowance of these pending claims 1-32, and of new claims 33-35, is therefore respectfully requested.


CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative at (612) 349-9581 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 16, 2008.

Zhakalazky M. Carrion

Name


Signature